

Southern California Water Committee, Inc.

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MEMO

TO: Eugenia Laychak
Bay Delta Advisory Council

FROM: Joan Anderson Dym, Executive Director

DATE: May 24, 2000

SUBJECT: Recommendation on CALFED Solution

In response to your request to Stephen Zapoticzny, Chairman, Southern California Water Committee to indicate agreement with the letter to Mr. David Hayes and Ms. Mary Nichols, please express to Chair Mike Madigan and Vice Chair Sunne McPeak that the May 22 draft appears much improved from the original draft of May 9. We believe that the BDAC meeting on May 17 resulted in some positive changes.

Specifically, we have noted that the SCWC comments regarding water efficiency, 'water saved by efficiencies should be retained by local agencies' (page 6) and 'avoiding the taking' rather than the May 9 version of 'seeking to minimize the taking' (page 5, #5) were included in this latest draft.

However, the Southern California Water Committee's support for CALFED's program depends on the results of the State and federal negotiations. The SCWC March 31 letter to Mr. Madigan and Ms. McPeak references our opposition to taking any action on the Proposed Preferred Alternative until the ongoing discussions result in definitive recommendations.

And, some issues in the May 22 letter continue to remain insufficiently addressed. The SCWC wants to see more emphasis on action programs in Stage I. The most important outcome of the CALFED Program needs to be in the implementation of the programs. As an example, on page 6, #10, 'reaching a decision' for recommending the early start in Stage I on a 'functional equivalent of the Delta Cross Channel', i.e., a new diversion point on the Sacramento River, falls short of what the SCWC has said is a necessary component in a Thru-Delta solution.

The SCWC has also objected to CALFED making forecasts of future water needs. Federal agencies should not be responsible for determining California's water resources. There is no evidence that federal agencies have the expertise to fulfill this responsibility; whereas, this is a legislatively mandated responsibility of the Department of Water Resources.

The Southern California Water Committee wants to see specific recommendations on programs, particularly on storage and conveyance facilities and these programs must move forward in Stage I. Our letter of March 31 outlines in more details the policy and positions of the Southern California Water Committee on a proposed CALFED Bay Delta solution package.

Mr. Zapoticzny will return to his office on Thursday, May 25, if you have any questions; or in the interim, I am available today if you need any further information.